

Claims

1. An apparatus for fighting a fire comprising a suspendible container having a perforated lower surface each of whose perforations is closed by a heat-sensitive membrane which is capable of rupture at an elevated temperature, the container containing a fire retardant material which is released upon rupture of the membrane, the apparatus further including an electric heater adjacent the membrane and a smoke detector controlling the heater such that upon the detection of smoke the heater is switched on to rupture the membrane.

2. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the perforations are closed by a common membrane lining the said lower surface of the container.

3. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the container is in the form of a tray having a perforated base.

4. An apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the elevated temperature is approximately 55 deg. C.

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5. An apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the fire retardant material is a powder.

6. An apparatus for fighting a fire comprising a suspendible container having a perforated lower surface each of whose perforations is closed by a first heat-sensitive membrane which is capable of rupture at an

elevated temperature, the container containing a fire retardant material which is released upon rupture of the membrane, the apparatus further including at least one further heat-sensitive membrane embedded in the fire

5 retardant material above the first membrane such that a respective layer of fire retardant material lies above each membrane, whereby upon rupture of the first membrane the layer of fire retardant material immediately above it is released and the further membrane comes to rest upon

10 the lower surface of the container, the layer of fire retardant material immediately above the further membrane being released only upon subsequent rupture of the further membrane.

15 7. An apparatus as claimed in claim 6, the apparatus further including an electric heater adjacent the first membrane and a smoke detector controlling the heater such that upon the detection of smoke the heater is switched on to rupture the first membrane.

20 8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 6 or 7, wherein the container is in the form of a tray having a perforated base.

25 9. An apparatus as claimed in claim 6, 7 or 8, wherein the elevated temperature is approximately 55 deg. C.

10. An apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the fire retardant material is a powder.